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THIRTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
BOARD OF INDIAN COMMISSIONERS
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1906

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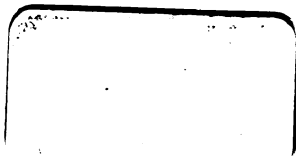


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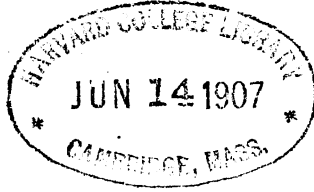
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The Board.



THIRTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BOARD OF INDIAN COMMISSIONERS.

WASHINGTON, D. C., *March 12, 1907.*

SIR: We have the honor to submit the Thirty-eighth Annual Report of the Board of Indian Commissioners. The purchase and inspection of supplies for the Indian Service has received from this board the attention and cooperation called for by the law and regulations and by the precedents and customs of the board. We submit herewith, as Appendix A, the special report of our purchasing committee, made to the chairman of this board for transmission to you. In that report the dates and places for opening bids for Indian supplies, inspecting samples, and awarding contracts, together with specific statements as to the assistance and cooperation given by members of the board, are given in detail.

GENERALLY SATISFACTORY FEATURES OF INDIAN ADMINISTRATION.

As contrasted with the state of affairs in Indian administration when this board was created, nearly forty years ago, the present condition of the Indian Service is such as to gratify all true friends of the native American races.

There is most marked improvement in nearly every respect; and notwithstanding the dangers which still threaten the Indians from intemperance, we believe that, on the whole, their prospects are more promising than ever before. Those who study carefully the history of the treatment accorded the Indian tribes by the Government have to admit a certain justice in that biting phrase of Helen Hunt Jackson, which stigmatizes the century from 1776 to 1876 as "a century of dishonor" in the Government's treatment of Indian tribes. But even as applied to that century the phrase carries a grossly exaggerated criticism, and for the last thirty years the legislation of Congress concerning Indians, their education, their allotment and settlement on lands of their own, their admission to citizenship, and the protection of their rights, makes, upon the whole, a chapter of political history of which Americans may justly be proud. Considering the fact that the "spoils system" of making appointments in the Indian Service has controlled in the naming of Indian agents almost to the present time, and that the fight against civil-service principles in the appointment of teachers and employees in the Indian Service was prolonged and bitter, there is occasion for the greatest gratification at the comparative excellence of the Indian schools and the Indian Service generally for these last ten years. In legislation and

administration the manifest determination of our Government to give protection to the rights of conquered and vanishing races of aborigines has been altogether exceptional in the political history of mankind. So far as we are aware no other nation has ever come so near to exercising a kindly and conservative guardianship over conquered aborigines.

The white man's greed of land, it is true, led to the relentless crowding of Indian tribes westward and the marking out of new Indian reservations, and the reservation policy of the Government, although designed to be helpful, proved upon trial to be in many ways injurious to the Indians. But as fast as the public conscience has been enlightened regarding the effects of reservation life upon the Indians, in Congressional action and in departmental administration the Government has manifested a most intelligent and persistent determination to do away with the evils of that policy by breaking up reservations and bringing individual Indians, through the schools and by the allotment of lands in severalty, into the body of American citizens. During the last three decades it has often seemed to the men and women of clearest vision and highest ethical standards that the Government has been slow in making needed changes to do away with the evils of reservation life. But students of political history and of the methods of governmental administration in other countries and in other centuries must admit that when allowance is made for the conservatism which always characterizes administration through official bureaus with large bodies of subordinates, the United States Government in its administration of Indian affairs has shown a spirit of systematic progress in the recognition of the highest ethical standards which is upon the whole exceptional in the history of civil administration for dependent races in any land.

The general allotment act of 1887, providing for land in severalty; the efficient system of day schools and boarding schools for the education and industrial training of Indian children; the steadfast determination by legislation and administration to protect allotted Indians for a period of twenty-five years against the efforts of white men to get possession of their allotted lands; and the maintenance of high standards of equity by leading Senators and Representatives in Congress in shaping the legislation which disposes of the surplus lands of Indian reservations, are upon the whole (notwithstanding some painful exceptions) justly a source of pride to thoughtful American citizens.

PRESENT INTELLIGENT AND EFFICIENT ADMINISTRATION OF THE INDIAN BUREAU.

With the changes which have occurred after national elections in the Cabinets of successive Presidents and the consequent changes in the office of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs during the last forty years, this Board has witnessed marked changes in the spirit and the efficiency of Indian administration. At certain periods it has seemed that by the inexperience or the carelessness of newly appointed officials much which had been gained for a time has been lost again. Yet there has been upon the whole steady and material progress. During the eight years while the Hon. William A. Jones was Commissioner of Indian Affairs, from 1897 to 1905, the longest

term of service of any Commissioner of Indian Affairs, there was marked progress in every branch of the service.

It is matter for congratulation, in the opinion of this board, that in the present Commissioner of Indian Affairs the Bureau has at its head one who came to the office with a more thorough and comprehensive knowledge of the actual condition of affairs on Indian reservations and in the Indian Service than any one of his predecessors had possessed on assuming the duties of the position. After nearly two years of cooperation with Commissioner Leupp in his administration of Indian affairs, it seems to this board that without forgetting the excellent service of his predecessors, the friends of the Indian may feel assured that there has never been at the head of the Indian Bureau a Commissioner whose knowledge of the needs of the Indian was more exact and comprehensive or whose purpose to serve the best interests of the Indians in his administration of the office was more manifest or more likely to work out good results for the Indian race. The fact that we find the purposes and the administrative acts of the present Commissioner of Indian Affairs so generally along the line of what seems to us the wisest and most helpful action for the Indians, makes such cooperation as this board can render a most gratifying service on our part, and gives to the board confidence that in the few particulars where our opinion and judgment may differ from those of the present Commissioner there will be a friendly and considerate comparison of views and an absolutely identical purpose—the effort to lead Indians into intelligent and useful citizenship in our American life.

NEW FEATURES IN INDIAN ADMINISTRATION WHICH ARE ESPECIALLY COMMENDABLE.

The present policy in the administration of Indian affairs may be characterized as a policy which emphasizes self-help, opens the way for it, and leads the Indians out from reservation life and tribal life into the economic, social, and civic life of American citizens.

The successful inauguration of systematic efforts through an employment agent to secure for the Indians opportunities for well-paid labor among white people in various parts of the Southwest have been most promising.

The plan for the introduction upon a large scale of the raising of sugar beets upon land leased from Indian reservations for a term of years under contracts to be approved by the Department, the whole plan being especially designed to provide steady and remunerative employment near their homes for large numbers of Indian men, women, and children, which has been outlined by Commissioner Leupp and recommended by him for legislation, seems to us to be worthy of trial and in every way promising for the industrial future of the Indians. We hope that it may be tried on a large scale, and we heartily commend it to the attention and the favorable action of Congress.

The friendly emulation and the pride in the success of their fellow-Indians in agriculture, stock-raising, and home making, which have been stimulated by the agricultural fairs held by the Indians for the last two or three years, have had a helpful effect upon agriculture and stock raising by Indians.

The recommendation of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, approved by the Department of the Interior and now embodied in legislation, that white children be admitted to schools established for Indian children, in order that Indian children may have the benefit of school life with English-speaking children from the homes of white people, we believe is most promising in its evidently good effect upon the Indian children, and through them upon Indian parents. We believe that it will tend to extinguish race prejudice on both sides, and to qualify the children of Indians who have received allotted lands to enter heartily and naturally with their white neighbors into the local interests and the home life of the communities where they dwell.

It grows more evident with each year that in dealing with children of Indian parents, who have never been taught to estimate aright the value of regular hours and of systematic habits, a compulsory school law is even more necessary than it is among the children of white parents. We trust that such a compulsory school law for Indians may speedily be enacted.

As the Omaha Indians were among the first to receive lands in severalty, it is interesting to note the progress made on the old Omaha reservations in the towns of Pender and Bancroft, Nebr., in the establishment of public schools where over 80 of the Omaha children attend school with white children. The testimony of the superintendent is that there are no complaints from anyone in these "district schools," and that Indian children meet with fair treatment. The discontinuance of the Omaha boarding school at the request of the Omaha Indians, the building of public schools within the limits of the old reservation, and the friendly intercourse of Indian children and white children in these schools without objection from the parents of either, seem to us to indicate the method by which our system of schools for Indian children may be merged in the general school system of our States.

THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD PROVIDE THE EQUIVALENT OF THE PROCEEDS OF ANNUAL SCHOOL TAXES WHERE INDIAN ALLOTMENTS ARE UNTAXED.

In connection with the notable progress made in this respect in school matters on the old Omaha Reservation in Nebraska, we ask especial attention to the fact that the Federal Government, which, as trustee, holds the lands of allottees in trust untaxed, has made provision for paying in these Nebraska schools an amount per capita for all Indian children who attend the common school, equal to the amount which is paid per capita by the State of Nebraska for the white children who attend the same schools. For several successive years this board has called attention to the need of such a provision for schools and for certain other local interests, such as roads, bridges, and courts, which are kept up by State, county, and town taxes, in those districts where a large proportion of the land in a town or county is held exempt from taxation by Indian allottees. It was hardly to be expected that white taxpayers in any county or town could be brought to regard as desirable neighbors—to consider as fellow-citizens entitled to like privileges with themselves—Indians

whose lands remained untaxed, while their white neighbors were compelled by increased taxation to pay for the schools, roads, bridges, and courts for the advantage and protection alike of the untaxed Indians and the taxed whites. The failure to enforce the statutes of the State of Washington against the sale of liquor to Indians illustrates this same point. In July, 1906, the prosecuting attorney of the county in which is situated the Yakima Reservation informed the superintendent in charge of that reservation that since the Indians did not pay taxes he (the prosecuting attorney) did not propose to put the county to any expense in prosecuting for crime among them, or to give them protection by law when crimes were committed on the reservation; and the district attorney adds that this policy "is in accordance with the instructions of the county commissioners." The need of making special provision for funds for the support of schools and of local government in parts of States where Indian lands remain untaxed for twenty-five years is also very evident to all who know the utter lack of country schools in those parts of the new State of Oklahoma which have been heretofore Indian reservations in the Indian Territory. We call attention to this matter in a later section of this report.

GREATER ACTIVITY IN PROHIBITING THE SALE OF LIQUOR TO INDIANS AND ON INDIAN ALLOTTED LANDS.

From their visits to Indian reservations, and from constant correspondence with Indian agents and with superintendents of Indian schools, the members of this board have felt most keenly how seriously the traffic in intoxicating liquors threatens the morals, the progress in citizenship, and the very physical existence of the Indians. It is with very great satisfaction that we note the recommendations of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs in favor of enlarged authority for employees and officials in the Indian Service to prosecute those who sell liquor to Indians, thus making more effective the laws which forbid the sale of liquor to Indians. The cooperation of Congress in furnishing the larger appropriations for this purpose which have been requested by the Secretary of the Interior and the Indian Bureau, is gratifying. The terrible ravages of the drink habit have already rendered almost hopeless the future of certain groups of Indians who first received allotted lands in severalty. The decision of the United States Supreme Court, that Indians allotted under the general allotment act of 1887 could not be kept under special restrictions by the Indian Bureau regarding the use of intoxicants and the purchase and sale of intoxicating liquors, has seemed to threaten the very existence of certain tribes where allotments had been already made.

OBJECTIONABLE FEATURES OF THE BURKE LAW.

We have understood that it was largely the wish on the part of the present Commissioner of Indian Affairs to protect allotted Indians against the evils which follow the sale and the use of intoxicants, which led him to advocate the amendment to the general severalty act, known as the Burke law, by which Indians allotted after May 8,

1906, do not become citizens by virtue of allotment until after the expiration of twenty-five years, the period covered by the protected title to their lands—the trust deed from the United States which keeps Indian allotments inalienable and untaxed for that length of time.

Clearly as we recognize the evils of the liquor traffic among the Indians and greatly as we desire active efforts on the part of the Government to protect the Indians against the evil of drink, we regret this modification of the allotment law, designed to keep Indians out of citizenship for twenty-five years after they receive their allotments. We think that this prolonged period of exclusion from the duties and rights of citizenship is too heavy a price for the Indians to pay for protection by the Indian Bureau. Most of the Indians who will receive allotments hereafter will have attended some school. A good proportion of them are now, and more of them at the time of their allotments will be, far better qualified to become citizens of the United States than are many of the foreign emigrants who, as recently naturalized citizens, are voters in many of our States. Most of all we deprecate the change, because it involves the perpetuation for from twenty to fifty years longer of a distinct class of "Indians untaxed and not citizens," to be cared for as special wards of the nation by an Indian Bureau, with all the machinery essential to its maintenance.

We do not forget that provision is made in the Burke law for the earlier admission to citizenship at any time of such Indians as the Secretary of the Interior in his discretion may see fit to admit to that privilege. But the entire aim of the law is *to take away from the Indians that presumption in favor of immediate citizenship coming with the allotment of land in severalty*, by which the wise statesmanship of Senator Dawes and others who framed and carried into effect the Dawes Act of February, 1887, proposed to train Indians for citizenship by intrusting them at once, on allotment, with the duties and the conscious responsibilities of active, local citizenship, and with the manhood-stimulating right of suffrage, while the homestead was made inalienable and was freed from taxation by the United States trust deed for twenty-five years.

EARLY ABOLITION OF THE INDIAN BUREAU AND ALL SPECIAL LEGISLATION AND ADMINISTRATION FOR INDIANS.

For the last eight or ten years we have strongly advocated the use of all right measures for putting an end as soon as possible to "the Indian problem," the Indian Bureau, Indian tribal funds, and special legislation for Indians. Allotment of land in severalty, to break up Indian reservations, and the division of Indian tribal funds into individual holdings upon the books of the United States Treasury, with payment to individual Indians as soon as they should prove themselves fitted to receive and use their share of the funds, we have earnestly advocated. We have believed, and we still believe, that these two great measures, in connection with a system of Indian schools which shall be as rapidly as possible merged into and united with the common schools of the States and Territories where allotted Indians reside, point the way to the early and natural abolition of the Indian Bureau and of all special class legislation for Indians. We shall deeply regret the recent modification in the general allotment

act for Indians if the result of it shall be, as it threatens to be, a distinct and prolonged perpetuation of special departmental control of Indians and Indian affairs. The only way out of the many embarrassments and difficulties of the "Indian problem," we believe, lies in the assimilation of Indians into the body of American citizens by their assuming as fast as possible the duties and the responsibilities of localized citizenship and sharing in a common local life with their white neighbors in matters of voting, local self-government, and the administration of local affairs.

We trust that there will yet be statesmanlike legislation enacted which shall make provision from surplus lands or from Indian trust funds for the equivalent of the proceeds of local taxation of Indian untaxed lands and for the building up of rural schools in what was the Indian Territory, now a part of the new State of Oklahoma. We must regard it as distinctly a step backward in the administration of Indian affairs, if all future allotments of land in severalty to Indians are accompanied by provisions which perpetuate the control of allotted Indians by the Indian Bureau for twenty-five to fifty years in the future. However benevolent may be the intentions of those who from time to time manage that Bureau, we think that the danger to the Indians from overmanagement and too much governmental control are greater than the dangers from too little control. Fitness for self-government can come to men only by their being intrusted with authority and opportunity to begin to govern themselves.

BREAKING UP OF TRIBAL FUNDS INTO INDIVIDUAL HOLDINGS.

The measure drafted some years since by the secretary of this board, in accordance with the recommendation made by President Roosevelt in his first message to Congress in 1901, for the breaking up of tribal funds into individual holdings on the books of the United States Treasury, has been made the basis of proposed legislation in Congress. H. R. bill 5290, introduced by Representative Lacey, of Iowa, while it advocated the central idea in this measure, differed from the plan proposed by this board materially, in that *it did not provide for a fixed date in the near future on which the funds to the credit of any tribe shall be divided among the Indians who are living at that date, and did not provide that no Indian children born after such a fixed date shall become shareholders in the tribal funds.* We regard the fixing of such a date and the preclusion of repeated modifications in the number of shareholders by the enrollment as shareholders of the babies born each six months, as very important in any legislative measure which attempts to be final in its distribution of tribal funds. The bill (H. R. 5290) as introduced by Mr. Lacey was so materially amended before it became a law that it does little more than "make a beginning" of dividing tribal funds into individual holdings and paying them over to individual Indians who are qualified to use them. But since it makes a beginning, we are glad to see it a law. For the principles which prolonged study of the Indian question leads us to believe should characterize such legislation, we respectfully refer to our Annual Report for 1901, pages 4 to 8, and for 1904, pages 5 to 10.

**GREATER DANGER NOW FROM TOO MUCH LEGISLATION THAN
FROM TOO LITTLE LAW FOR INDIANS.**

Twenty years ago all friends of the Indians complained of the white man's greed of land and the Indian's entire lack of law for the protection of his land and his personal rights. We needed and we have secured legislation to protect the Indians in their right to land, to enable Indians to become American citizens, and to secure to them their right to an education, and to equal protection with whites by the laws of the United States. But much of the land which had been set apart in vast tracts as Indian reservations at a time when it was regarded as of little value, has now come to be of great value. The more dense population of the West and Southwest, the newly developed national system of irrigation which is developing good arable land in what had been regarded as worthless tracts of desert, and the rich deposits of minerals, oil, and asphalt have all contributed to this great increase in the value of Indian lands. Indian tribes who were thought to be poor and landless a generation ago, have now become rich capitalists. The old Indian Territory has been for the last ten years the center of interest in Indian lands, with their deposits of oil, coal, and asphalt. Only those who attempt to watch the almost numberless bills and amendments which are offered in Congress bearing upon Indian affairs can realize how great is the mass of such legislation which is attempted—legislation prompted in part by the wish of friends of the Indians to secure the breaking up of the old tribal and reservation life, but in still greater part by the desire of white men and Indian-claim lawyers to get possession for themselves of portions of Indian lands, Indian mineral wealth, and Indian tribal funds.

In the rapid settlement of the Indian Territory and Oklahoma by whites, for the last few years since the Federal Government determined to break up the tribal governments of the Five Civilized Tribes, there has arisen a state of affairs which demands consideration and relief, quite as much for the sake of the white settlers in Indian Territory as for the sake of the Indians themselves. The whites in the old Indian Territory outnumber the Indians more than ten to one. The only schools in the country districts of the old Indian Territory have been the tribal Indian schools established for Indian children only. *An entire school population of white children in the Indian Territory has grown up and passed through the school age entirely without schools of any kind!* The illiterates in Indian Territory are 260 to the thousand! It is a situation without precedent in the history of the country. The allotment of land to Indians in severalty, with the throwing open of vast regions to white settlers upon leased lands or purchased surplus lands, has made it inevitable that there should be modifications (in the interest of white settlers) of those laws and methods of administration which were at first established in the interest of Indians when white settlers among them were comparatively few.

But friends of the Indians in Congress, in the Indian Bureau, and throughout the country are called upon to watch carefully lest *much of the good which has been accomplished by wise legislation and ad-*

ministration for Indians *be ruined by new legislation pressed through Congress in the interest of white settlers in the old Indian Territory and Oklahoma.*

This Board wishes here to record its high estimate of the steadfast integrity and absolutely unflinching devotion to principle which seem to us to have been shown by the Secretary of the Interior for the last six years (Secretary Hitchcock) in his determination to protect the property rights of Indians against illegal impositions by whites. It is our conviction that the next two or three years will call for especial vigilance on the part of all friends of the Indians to see to it that the rights and interests of the Indians are protected in the breaking up of reservations, the sale of the surplus lands which Indians do not need for homesteads, the provision made by law and by administrative regulations for the protection of the allotments of minors and of aged and helpless Indians, and for the sale and inheritance of allotments of deceased Indians.

INCREASING IMPORTANCE OF ACCURATE REGISTERS OF NAMES AND AGES OF ALL INDIANS AT AGENCIES, AND OF MARRIAGES, RELATIONSHIPS, BIRTHS, AND DEATHS.

For six or seven years we have strenuously urged the complete and *immediate registration*, by Indian agents and superintendents, of *all the Indians at each agency and subagency*, with the regulation of marriages by license and registration, and the *keeping of a careful record of marriages, births, and deaths* at each agency. For something like six years it has been a nominal requirement of the Indian Bureau that such complete registration be made at each agency and subagency. Carefully prepared books of record, and blank forms, were some six years ago issued to all agents for this purpose. We have annually called attention to the great importance of making this work of registration full and accurate. In our last annual report the tabulated results of correspondence with agents about this matter were given. There are still many agencies at which this important matter is entirely neglected. There are few where it is well done.

Each added year makes more manifest the pressing need of such records. If records of this kind had been made and kept for the last ten years it is hardly too much to say that hundreds of thousands of dollars would have been saved to the Indians from claim agents and "land sharks," and tens of thousands of dollars of expense, in making out rolls of Indian citizens in Indian tribes, might have been saved to the Government.

The Burke bill, passed last year, which makes it mandatory on the Secretary of the Interior to "ascertain the legal heirs of such allotted deceased Indians," and makes the Secretary's decision "in all respects final and conclusive," emphasizes afresh the need of this registration of families. *We do not think there is any good reason why this registration should not be completed next year at every agency and subagency*, except among the Navaho, where more time would probably be needed. Again we urge upon the Department the need of the systematic requirement of reports from agents and superintendents upon the progress of this work of registration, and of systematic periodic inspection of such agency registers and rolls.

And we respectfully commend to Congress the consideration of legislation (if legislation is necessary) to insure the prompt preparation and the careful maintenance at each agency of these registers of all Indians and of family relationships.

ALLOTMENT OF LAND TO INDIANS.

During the fiscal year 1906 only 3,000 additional allotments to Indians were made, and only 4,000 patents were issued.

OUTFIT OF SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS NEEDED FOR EACH AGENCY.

We renew our suggestion that appropriate care for the health of the Indians demands that the medical practitioner at each agency or subagency where a medical man is stationed should be provided, at the expense of the Government, with a good set of such surgical instruments as are needed in case of accidents and of ordinary operations.

PAY OF INDIAN POLICE.

It is gratifying to note the recommendations made in the past by the present Commissioner of Indian Affairs in favor of an increase of pay for the Indian police. The service of these men has been invaluable in maintaining law and order on Indian reservations. As a rule the men have been remarkably faithful in the performance of their duty. We do not think that their pay is yet adequate. We heartily recommend an increase of pay to officers and men in the Indian police service.

HOMELESS INDIANS OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA.

The appropriation by Congress last year of \$100,000 to be used in securing land on which might be established, in homes of their own, the scattered, landless, and homeless Indians of northern California, and the appointment of Mr. C. E. Kelsey, of California, who has for some years been interested in this problem, as a special agent to investigate and report plans for the relief of these Indians, are steps by the Government toward solving a problem in which good people of California and friends of the Indians throughout the country have long felt a keen interest. Of the 17,000 full-blood Indians in California about 9,000 are scattered through the State in groups of from 20 to 250, with no land of their own, and heretofore without any attempt on the part of the Government to provide reservations or allotments for them. Most of them are in conditions of penury and misery. Of something more than 1,000 mixed-blood Indians in California over 800 are without homes. It is to be hoped that the efforts of Mr. Kelsey, with the appropriation placed at the disposal of the Department for the purpose of relieving these Indians, may materially change conditions for the better during the current fiscal year.

MONTAUK INDIANS IN NEW YORK ARE TO HAVE THEIR "DAY IN COURT."

In 1906 the legislature of New York passed an act to enable the Montauk tribe of Indians in that State to maintain suit to establish their rights to certain lands claimed by them, situated at the extreme eastern end of Long Island. Without expressing any opinion as to the equity of the claims of these Indians, it has seemed to us for years that the State of New York should by law enable these Indians to appear in court and have their claims adjudicated. Through a committee of this board and by interviews and correspondence we have sought in past years to secure for these Indians an opportunity to appear in court. We trust that the result of the law passed last year may be the opening of a way for the Montauk Indians to test in court their claim to the land in question.

TEACHING PRINCIPLES OF AGRICULTURE AND METHODS OF FARM WORK TO INDIAN CHILDREN.

We can not express too strongly the gratification which we feel at the greater prominence which is being given from year to year to the effort to teach in Indian schools the simple principles and the elementary methods of such agriculture, farm work, and care of stock, as all Indian boys and girls whose future life is likely to be passed in farming communities should become acquainted with during their school years. We trust that still more of time and prominence will be given to this kind of instruction and to school gardens and experimental farms in connection with the Indian day schools and boarding schools.

PROBLEM OF WATER FOR IRRIGATION FOR THE PIMA INDIANS.

The provision of a water supply for the Pima Indians has had the interest and the earnest efforts of this board for the last eight years. Delays and disappointments have been numerous. It is with especial pleasure that we include in our report the following statement of the situation, furnished us in the following authoritative form by the Indian Bureau at the date of our annual meeting:

MARCH 1, 1907.

In the project for irrigating the Pima lands the Indian Office was confronted with all the perils, delays, extra costs, and inconveniences of a complete separate engineering undertaking, although the original appropriation had been procured on the basis of a reclamation-service project. After a careful examination by the chief engineer of the Indian Service and a consultation between him and the engineers of the Reclamation Service, the conclusion was finally reached that the most economical and promising plan was for the Indian Office to subscribe for a 10,000-acre water right on behalf of the Indians, putting them practically into the position of members of the water users' association organized for utilizing the water made available by the Roosevelt dam. On the strength of this tentative arrangement the Commissioner procured from Congress the following item of legislation, included in the Indian appropriation act passed in March, 1907:

"That the Secretary of the Interior may, in his discretion, use such part of the three hundred thousand dollars heretofore appropriated for an irrigation system for the Pima Indians in the payment of such Indians' proportionate part of the construction of the Salt River project, and such funds may be

transferred to the reclamation fund, to be expended by that service in accordance with its rules and regulations, the Indians to receive a credit upon the reclamation charge assessed against their lands under the Salt River project for the amount so transferred."

It has been agreed that \$100,000 of the Pima appropriation shall be immediately diverted to the reclamation fund as an advance payment on the 10,000-acre water right, so as to hurry the construction of the power transmission line from the existing power plant of the Reclamation Service to the Pima Reservation, and that the Reclamation Service shall construct the power plant, canals, ditches, etc., needed on the reservation, though the Indians' interests shall remain an independent entity, and be administered in the manner most suitable to their condition.

The total cost for the water right, which is in effect a perpetual power right, will approximate \$250,000. It is expected by the Reclamation Service that, unless unforeseen obstacles intervene, the power will be available and the power plant and transmission line on the reservation operative and water supplied to the Indians for irrigation within the next twelve months. It is calculated that each farmer will have a farm of about 10 acres of irrigated land—possibly a little more than 10 acres—and there is besides this an indifferent but rather large grazing commons on which their very hardy animals can eke out a subsistence.

The complete details of the agreement, when some matters still under discussion have been fully worked out, will be presented in the next annual report of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

To Hon. MERRILL E. GATES,
Secretary Board of Indian Commissioners,
Washington, D. C.

REQUEST OF STANDING ROCK SIOUX INDIANS FOR ADDITIONAL STOCK CATTLE.

Statistics compiled by the secretary of this board after full correspondence with all the Indian agents in the service regarding those Indian reservations in which stock raising rather than agriculture must be the chief reliance of the Indians for self-support, were published in tabulated form in our annual report for 1902 (opposite p. 18). We believe that wise encouragement should steadily be given by the Department to the breeding and the care of cattle by Indians whose reservations are chiefly grazing lands and whose habits of life, since they have begun to seek to be self-supporting, have tended to fit them for the work of raising and caring for stock cattle. The Sioux Indians of the Standing Rock Agency, having just released to whites large portions of their reservation for grazing purposes, have now requested the Government that two-thirds of the fund heretofore expended for "irregular labor in lieu of rations" be hereafter used for the purchase of stock cattle to increase the herds of Indians. They have also expressed the wish that a portion of the principal of the three-million trust fund which is due to the Sioux Indians be expended in purchasing stock cattle. It is to be hoped that these wishes of the Standing Rock Sioux may receive careful consideration by the Department and by Congress. It seems to us that they might well be granted.

DAY SCHOOLS AMONG THE NAVAHO.

No new boarding schools for Indian children are needed, with the possible exception of schools among the Navaho Indians. While a beginning for boarding schools for the Navaho has been made, but

little has been done for them in the way of providing day schools. The latest report of the number of Navaho Indians indicates something like 28,000 of these people, although no accurate census has been taken. We trust that during the coming year a considerable number of day schools may be established among them at points where little groups of families are together for several months of the year. The nomadic habits of these shepherd people have made the problem of reaching their children by schools a difficult one; but it should now be dealt with, although the conditions are such as to make it probable that many small day schools, with sessions covering but a comparatively small part of the year, may be found the only feasible plan in beginning this school work.

IN OPENING RESERVATIONS BY SALE OF SURPLUS TRIBAL LAND, THE GOVERNMENT IS UNDER OBLIGATION TO SECURE TO THE INDIANS THE ADVANTAGE OF THE BEST POSSIBLE PRICES.

In the mass of legislation and legal decisions affecting Indian tribal lands and Indian allotments which the last six years have witnessed, the decision of the Federal Supreme Court in the "Lone Wolf case," four years ago, taking the ground that Congress has supreme power to dispose of Indian tribal lands by legislation, even if such legislation sets aside explicit provisions of those treaties with Indian tribes by which Indian reservations were created, has been perhaps the farthest reaching. However carefully the terms of the court's decision might state the limiting conditions attendant on the use of this power by Congress, it was inevitable that the enunciation by the Supreme Court of this legislative power to dispose of tribal lands without the consent of the tribe should be regarded by certain unscrupulous men as opening the way to easy appropriation by white men of all surplus tribal lands and the payment of merely nominal prices for such land to the Indians. Indian "claim lawyers" have for years obtained such extravagant fees out of Indian tribal funds, and aggression upon Indian tribal lands was for so many years practiced by whites without penalty that it has been difficult to convince a certain class of clamorous white men who covet Indian lands that the "Lone Wolf decision" is not to be made a mere instrument for wresting Indian lands from Indians at nominal prices to build up fortunes for white men who can get the first opportunity to buy these Indian lands at farcically low prices. But there were not wanting good men and true in both Houses of Congress who were determined to make it evident that Congress was acting in the spirit attributed to it by the Supreme Court in the "Lone Wolf opinion," in which that court declares: "We must *presume that Congress acted in perfect good faith* in the dealings with the Indians of which complaint is made and that the *legislative branch of the Government exercised its best judgment* in the premises." Such Senators and Members of Congress have systematically held that it was the duty of the United States Government and of Congress, in exercising the authority to act for Indians as wards of the nation by disposing of their tribal property, to dispose of that property in such a way and on such terms as should guard the interests of the Indians as its wards.

Attempts have been made again and again to sell hundreds of thousands of acres of surplus tribal lands at a merely nominal price per acre, offering the Indians only \$1 or \$1.25 an acre, where similar lands in the immediate neighborhood were selling at from five to twenty times the price thus offered to the Indians. When over half a million acres of Kiowa lands in Oklahoma were to be sold, in 1906, it was through the efforts of the present Commissioner of Indian Affairs, of the Secretary of the Interior, and of the type of public-spirited and high-minded legislator in Congress referred to above that the act was passed which required that these lands be disposed of "under sealed bids or at public auction" and at not less than \$5 per acre. It appears, now that the business connected with the Kiowa land sale under the sealed-bid plan is settled, that the average price secured for the most of the land is over \$12 per acre. When the pressure which was brought to bear to convince Members of Congress that these lands should be bought from the Indians for from \$1 to \$3 per acre is remembered this becomes a very striking illustration of the strong tendency to "plunder" Indians by means of the sale of their surplus lands.

In the case of the lands of the Rosebud band of Sioux Indians (nearly three-quarters of a million of acres of lands in Tripp County, S. Dak.) efforts of the same kind have been made and are still making to fix upon these lands by law a price which is believed by wise friends of the Indians to be very much below the market value of the lands. It is to be hoped that the plan proposed by the business committee of the Rosebud Indians (requiring that in any act which may provide for the sale of this land provisions shall be inserted which will secure to the Indians the benefit of competition among the prospective purchasers) will be adopted by Congress and successfully carried out by the Department. Certain of the bills now pending in Congress expressly disclaim, on the part of the United States Government, all pecuniary interest in the exercise by legislation of that right of preemption which belongs to the Government when the tribal hold upon the land is relinquished. Some of these bills expressly state that it is the wish of the United States Government to act "as trustee only" in making these sales.

Certainly the standard which the sense of equity in the heart of the American people requires of the Government at Washington when it thus acts as trustee for Indian wards makes it obligatory upon Congress to use every precaution to secure for its wards the best prices for this surplus land which sealed bids and active competition among prospective purchasers can secure for the Indians. The tendency to tamper with ethical standards of trusteeship in such legislation, while it is unjust to the Indians, entails upon the whites in Congress and throughout the country an infinitely heavier loss in the degradation of moral standards and of the sense of public honor.

NEEDS OF INDIAN TRIBES IN ALASKA—SUFFERING FOR LACK OF HOSPITALS—GREAT NEED OF SCHOOLS.

Two years ago Alaska, with a population of perhaps 30,000 of the native races, had but 32 Government schools, with but 35 poorly paid teachers. During the last year less than 50 day schools were pro-

vided. There are no boarding schools or schools for industrial training for the natives. Diseases induced by contact with the whites have resulted in an awful death rate. Half the natives near the mouth of the Kuskokwim River (some 1,500 out of about 3,000) died in 1900 of an epidemic of measles and grippe. The food supply of the natives north of the Yukon, and inland from the coast, consists almost exclusively of the salmon which run up the rivers. The great salmon canning factories have nearly destroyed the Indians' food supply, so far as the Indians south of the Yukon are concerned; and they are already threatening the rivers north of the Yukon. We believe that provision should be made by law against the establishment of any canning factories on rivers north of the Yukon. The supply of salmon on rivers south of the Yukon, if properly handled by the canning factories, is more than sufficient to supply the demand of the world for canned salmon. Common humanity demands action on the part of Congress to prevent the utter cutting off of the food supply of the natives north of the Yukon.

The suffering among these Alaskan natives for lack of medical and surgical advice and hospital relief is indescribable. Is it not the manifest duty of the United States Government to begin at once to establish boarding schools, with a hospital attached to every school, at points along the coast to which Indian children may be brought for education and trained in practical industries which will aid them in self-support? From such school hospitals some medical and surgical advice and help should be given to the adult natives.

We believe, too, that there should be far more of activity and a far larger expenditure of money in establishing day schools (where elementary industrial training should be given) throughout Alaska.

We are strongly of the opinion that wise action has been taken in continuing to keep the reindeer under the direction of the United States Commissioner of Education and the General Agent of education for Alaska, instead of turning them over to the white residents of that Territory. The reindeer were imported as a measure of relief for the native Alaskans. The Indians should not be deprived of the reindeer, now that the herd of reindeer begin to promise material relief and a means of support for numbers of the natives.

It seems to us that the entire educational work of Alaska would probably be more effectively done if all the educational activities of the Territory were unified in plan and in administration. This work should be supported by larger appropriations.

THE BURKE BILL OF MAY, 1906, SHUTTING OUT OF UNITED STATES CITIZENSHIP FOR TWENTY-FIVE YEARS ALL INDIANS ALLOTTED LAND AFTER MAY 8, 1906, EXCEPT AS THE DEPARTMENT MAY ALLOW INDIVIDUAL INDIANS TO BECOME CITIZENS, SEEMS A LONG STEP BACKWARD—AGAINST MAKING CITIZENS OF INDIANS AND IN FAVOR OF EXCLUSIVE DEPARTMENTAL CONTROL.

The central idea of the "Dawes bill," known as the "general allotment act of 1887," is that the allotment of land in severalty shall make a United States citizen of the Indian who is thus separated from tribal life and established on his own land. To save him from the land grabbers and to give him a start in industry the United

States protects him in the possession of his land by giving him a trust deed making the land inalienable and nontaxable for a period of twenty-five years from the time of allotment. At the expiration of the twenty-five years the United States gives to the allottee or to his surviving heirs a patent to the allotment in fee simple.

In 1906 a bill introduced by Mr. Burke, of South Dakota, was passed, by which it is provided that an allotment of land to an Indian made after May 8, 1906, does not carry citizenship with it as heretofore, and that only such Indians as may be individually adjudged by the Secretary of the Interior to be capable of managing their own affairs can have citizenship until twenty-five years shall have passed after the allotment of their land, while so long as these allotments are held in trust by the Government the allotted Indian, not a citizen, continues to be subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the United States and under regulations of the Secretary of the Interior and the Indian Bureau.

While we do not question the good intentions of those who favored this legislation, it seems to us that this measure threatens most seriously the progress of Indians toward citizenship and independent, self-supporting life as American citizens. It throws the presumption *against* citizenship for allotted Indians. No Indian to whom land is allotted can become a citizen in less than twenty-five years unless the Secretary of the Interior may choose to allow him to become a citizen. It is impossible for the Secretary or for the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, of course, to get knowledge at first hand as to the fitness of Indian allottees for citizenship. The plan provided in the Burke bill seems to this Board, after many years of observation of the dealings of the Indian Bureau with Indians, to be fraught with most serious danger. It substitutes arbitrary personal action by officials for the rule of the law. It creates a presumption that the allotted Indian is not to be a citizen of the United States. It throws upon every Indian the burden of attracting to himself sufficient attention, and of winning for himself from his agent or superintendent sufficient favor, to secure such representations in his behalf to the Department and the Indian Bureau as shall lead to exceptional action in his favor in admitting him to citizenship.

We hope that this provision of the Burke allotment act may be amended at the next session of Congress. We respectfully suggest that in our opinion the proper kind of amendment would be legislation which should provide that (if not on the day of the issuance of the trust deed to an allottee, certainly after a *brief probation period* of not more than two or three years) every allotted Indian should become a citizen, unless by reason of *incompetence, laziness, intemperance, or crime* he or she should be individually adjudged unworthy as yet of citizenship. We believe that such legislation might well provide the method by which *unfitness* for citizenship should be tested and proved. It seems to us that instead of citizenship being granted as a personal favor by the Secretary of the Interior to Indians whom he may designate, it is far more consonant with the spirit of the American system into which we propose to receive these Indians as citizens that citizenship should come by virtue of the allotting act to all Indians who are fit to receive it, and that those who are *not fitted to receive citizenship* with the allotment of their land should be *dd-*

judged unfit by the application of tests such as can be easily defined in a law governing such cases. If Indians who are for any good reason adjudged unfit to become citizens are excluded, we believe that citizenship will become, as it ought to be, a prize to be sought by the Indians. Citizenship should come with the allotment of land at the time of allotment or within a year of it to all those allotted Indians who can not be properly classed for specific reasons as *unfit for citizenship*. In other words, we believe in the man-making effect of citizenship upon Indians too long kept in leading strings.

We respectfully commend to the Department, to the Indian Bureau, and to Congress the consideration of some such amendment to the Burke bill. The hopeful progress which the Indians have made in education and in fitting themselves for self-support and citizenship during the last twenty-five years we believe is in no slight degree due to the new hopes which have sprung up among the Indians since the Dawes severalty bill has given them the prospect of early admission to American citizenship. It seems to us a serious mistake to deprive them as a people of this hope, or to make citizenship for an Indian depend upon his keeping on the pleasant side of the local officials at the agency in order to secure recommendation for citizenship.

INDIAN TERRITORY IN THE NEW STATE OF OKLAHOMA—SCHOOLS AND TAXES.

For the last ten years the Indian Territory has been the place where legislation and changes in administration have had the most marked effect upon the entire Indian problem. The rapid increase of white population in the Indian Territory and Oklahoma, the gradual breaking up of the old tribal governments, and the assumption by the United States Government of the control of Territorial affairs, with the popular agitation for and against statehood, have all contributed to make these last years in the Indian Territory critical years in their effect upon the future of the native American races.

Four years ago Congress passed an act by which the tribal governments of the Five Civilized Tribes were to cease. This would have involved the discontinuance of all tribal schools, thus leaving the whole of the Indian Territory outside the incorporated towns entirely without even the most rudimentary provisions for a system of public schools. About three years ago, in a conference between friends of the Indians who were residents of the Indian Territory and members of this Board, the first provision was drafted for increasing the efficiency of the Indian tribal schools by opening them to white students through the help of an appropriation by Congress to be used for this purpose. This provision became law, and the continued and enlarged support thus secured for these tribal schools was accompanied by a systematic increase in their number and by the definite purpose on the part of residents of the Territory to send white pupils to the rural schools thus established and enlarged, to help to pay for the support of these schools, and to make them the basis of a State country school system. It is with very great gratification that this board has watched the development of this germ of a country school system for the Indian Territory in the new State. The incorporated towns in the Indian Territory and in Oklahoma

have established and are supporting and enlarging admirable systems of town grammar schools and high schools. The new State will receive from Oklahoma a gift of school lands which are estimated as worth \$20,000,000, and an annual income for school purposes which amounted to a half million dollars last year and will be much larger when these lands produce full revenue. In the enabling act for the creation of the new State, Congress has provided a school fund of \$5,000,000 (in addition to the lands received from Oklahoma) in recognition of the fact that in the Indian Territory no public lands had been set aside for school purposes.

In population the two parts of the New State, Indian Territory and (the old Territory of) Oklahoma, are about equal, and while the area of old Oklahoma is somewhat greater, the average value per acre of the Indian Territory is greater than the average in old Oklahoma. Even with the special school fund of \$5,000,000 established by Congress in the enabling act as a contribution from Indian Territory toward the school funds of the new State, it is evident that of the money available for school purposes in the new State it will be felt that Oklahoma is contributing four or five dollars, to one dollar from the Indian Territory.

This situation is rendered still more unfavorable for country schools in Indian Territory by the fact that even if the legislation now pending in Congress to remove restrictions from considerable portions of allotted lands should pass, it will remain a fact that *something over half the entire land of the Indian Territory will be exempt from taxation for the next twenty-five years*. It is evident that the making of anything like adequate provisions for the maintenance of rural schools throughout the Indian Territory will thus be rendered exceedingly difficult. The Indian Territory has a larger population of white children of school age who are growing up absolutely without any system of schools than has ever been known in any State or Territory in the history of the United States. This fact renders the problem still more serious.

We note with great satisfaction the more liberal appropriation which, in view of these facts, Congress has this winter made (\$300,000) "for the enlargement and increased efficiency of the old tribal schools" in the Indian Territory. This appropriation, efficiently administered, as it has been under the direction of the Secretary of the Interior, will be most helpful in bridging over the transition years from territorial to state government.

But even if Congress were to contemplate continuing such an appropriation for a series of years and increasing it in amount, the difficulty would not then be fully met. We wish respectfully to commend to Congress, to the Department of the Interior, and to the President the question whether this is not the appropriate time for meeting, by a definite appropriation (whether from the coal and oil lands or from other sources), the lack of such funds for school and court purposes as are furnished by land taxes in all other States and Territories. Such funds are totally lacking in those townships and counties where Indian allotments keep the land untaxed, and so, for purposes of local government and school support, *nonproductive*.

In parts of other States and Territories (notably in Thurston County, Nebr.) the great difficulty of securing for Indian children

school privileges and for Indian citizens adequate protection under the law has come to be of intense practical importance. It has been openly said in the local newspapers, and sometimes in semiofficial correspondence from Thurston County, that where the lands of Indians were not taxed it was unreasonable to expect that the county would incur for the protection of Indians expensive litigation, or would make adequate school provision for Indian children. In the part of Oklahoma which was formerly Indian Territory, and outside of incorporated towns, this practical difficulty of a lack of revenue from land taxation threatens the very existence of schools. *We respectfully call upon Congress to meet, by the provision of an adequate income for school purposes from some regular source, the difficulties which must inevitably be met by the inhabitants of these counties where most of the land is untaxable Indian allotments.*

Several measures of legislation have been suggested looking to the retaining by the General Government of the mining interests of coal and asphalt in the Indian lands of the new State, while surface agricultural rights are to be leased or sold to settlers and the proceeds of such leases or sales are to be paid to the Indians. If any one of these plans is adopted (for instance, the plan which proposes that the United States Government retain control of the mining interests in coal and asphalt and from the proceeds of mining leases retain in the United States Treasury 25 per cent to defray the expenses of administration, paying over the remaining 75 per cent for the benefit of the new State), why would it not be wise and practicable for Congress to enact a provision that this 75 per cent should constitute a school fund for the new State, and that from this school fund there should, first of all, be paid, for the benefit of the rural schools in those portions of the State which were formerly Indian reservations and where most of the land is now held untaxed for twenty-one years as the holdings of Indians, an annual amount which should be as nearly as possible equivalent to what would be the net proceeds from the annual taxation for school purposes of land which is now held untaxed, in trust, for Indian owners? Such a plan seems to us practicable. We believe that it would commend itself to the people of the new State of Oklahoma and to the citizens of the country at large.

FOR RURAL SCHOOLS IN THE INDIAN TERRITORY—OLD TRIBAL SCHOOL PROPERTY SHOULD BE SOLD FOR SCHOOL PURPOSES.

In this connection we wish respectfully to suggest to the Department and to Congress the question whether it would not be wise to provide by law for the selling of the various tribal school properties (when their present use for tribal schools is discontinued) in such a way as to make it possible to use these old school properties for school purposes and for the advantage of the school system of the new State. It is believed that many of these school properties in the towns, as well as in the rural districts, could and should be *made at once available for school purposes, and perhaps, in certain instances, for reformatory school purposes*, and should not be sold by auction to individual bidders merely for the sake of the petty profit which might be made by the breaking up and selling of these properties to private persons.

PROHIBITION OF LIQUOR TRAFFIC IN INDIAN TERRITORY.

It is most gratifying to all friends of the Indians and to all true-hearted American citizens to note the progress which has been made in securing effective safeguards against the liquor traffic in the State of Oklahoma. The agreements of the United States Government with the Indian tribes promised explicitly the prevention of the liquor traffic in all the land which was set apart for Indian uses and is known as the Indian Territory. At our annual meeting two years ago special resolutions of this board were sent to the Senate and the House of Representatives, and were cited and used in the discussion regarding the enabling act for the new State of Oklahoma by legislators who felt that prohibition should be secured in the new State.

Many friends of temperance legislation wished that the enabling act should prohibit the liquor traffic throughout all the territory of the new joint State. But it was deemed best by Congress to make the restrictions of the enabling act apply only to those portions of the territory of the new State of Oklahoma which had been set apart as Indian reservations. For these parts of the territory of the new State, the terms of the restriction in the enabling act were the most stringent which had been suggested by the strongest friends of temperance.

It is exceedingly gratifying to note the heartiness with which the constitutional convention of Oklahoma, now in session at Guthrie, has welcomed these prohibitory provisions in the enabling act. They have accepted the restrictions of the enabling act as binding for the full period of twenty-one years. Beside this, they have made provisions for submitting to the voters of all the counties and districts throughout the entire State (old Oklahoma as well as old Indian Territory) the question whether these prohibitory provisions shall be binding for the entire State and not simply for those portions of the State covered by the old Indian reservations. It is hoped that the popular desire for a uniform State constitution will prove strong enough, and that the public opinion of the population of the State will be sufficiently intelligent in its view of the evils of the liquor traffic, to secure the adoption of this prohibitory provision for the entire State.

Even if this should not be the case, friends of local option have suggested in the State convention that to the voters of each county and district the question of the extension of these restrictions over their own county and their own district should be submitted, to be decided by the local vote.

The evils of the liquor traffic bear with exceptional severity upon the Indian population. It is gratifying to know that there is a prospect of such safeguards as can be established by law in the new State of Oklahoma.

MEETINGS OF THE BOARD.

In addition to the conferences of members of the board with the Commissioner of Indian Affairs at the opening of samples and the awards of contracts, the board held its usual autumn meeting, at Lake Mohonk, in October, 1906, as the guests of Commissioner

Albert K. Smiley, for a three days' conference with friends of the Indian from all parts of the country.

From February 26 to February 28, 1907, the board held its annual meeting at Washington, D. C., for two sessions daily, transacting the usual business of the annual meeting and welcoming two new members of the board, Prof. Maurice Francis Egan, of Washington, D. C., appointed and commissioned by the President of the United States on October 5, 1906, to fill the vacancy occasioned by the resignation of Hon. Charles J. Bonaparte, now Attorney-General of the United States; and Hon. George Vaux, jr., of Philadelphia, appointed and commissioned by the President of the United States on November 27, 1906, to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Hon. Philip C. Garrett, of Philadelphia.

The annual report herewith submitted was considered, acted upon, and approved by the Board, and, in accordance with a resolution of the Board, is herewith submitted to the Secretary of the Interior.

Very respectfully,

DARWIN R. JAMES, *Chairman.*

MERRILL E. GATES, *Secretary.*

ALBERT K. SMILEY

E. WHITTLESEY

WILLIAM D. WALKER

JOSEPH T. JACOBS

PATRICK J. RYAN

ANDREW S. DRAPER

GEORGE VAUX, JR.

MAURICE F. EGAN.

To the SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

APPENDIX.

REPORT OF THE PURCHASING COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD OF INDIAN COMMISSIONERS.

WASHINGTON, D. C., *February 12, 1907.*

SIR: The purchasing committee of this board has the honor to make the following report of business during the year from January to December, 1906:

For several successive years this board has advocated in its annual report and in recommendations to the Secretary of the Interior and to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs that a change be made in the place and manner of opening bids and awarding contracts for supplies for the Indian Service by which the Government might be spared expenditures of time and money which seemed to us needless in the duplication of machinery for opening and classifying bids at widely different points. It is with great satisfaction that we have witnessed during this past year the change made by the present Commissioner of Indian Affairs by which bids have been opened and classified at the Indian Office in Washington. Although the samples (which are submitted simultaneously with the bids) are delivered at the respective Indian warehouses as in the past, we believe that this change has proved in every way beneficial to the service. Your purchasing committee would respectfully renew the suggestion offered in past years that for the same reasons which have led to a change in the place of opening the bids there should also be a change by which most of the work of examining samples and making awards should be done at a central warehouse at Washington. We further believe that not more than two Indian warehouses are necessary for the welfare of the service.

On Thursday, April 5, 1906, at 2 p. m., bids for clothing, piece goods, etc., were opened at the office of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs. Commissioner Gates, member and secretary of this board and member of the purchasing committee, was present and assisted. Twenty-five bids were opened, and all were read in full by Commissioner Leupp in the presence of the few bidders who were in attendance.

On April 12, 1906, bids for blankets, dry goods, cotton goods, and notions were opened; also bids for hats and caps. On Thursday, April 26, at 2 p. m., bids for boots, shoes, rubber goods, medical supplies, and hardware were opened at the office of the Indian Bureau by Acting Commissioner Larrabee. Commissioner Gates, of this board, was in attendance and assisted. Opportunity was given for the reading in full of every bid, and where anyone who was present asked for it bids were read in full. On Tuesday, May 14, at 2 p. m., bids for crockery, harness, leather, etc., were opened by Commissioner Leupp at the Indian Office, Commissioner Gates, of this board, attending and assisting. On Tuesday, May 8, bids for rolled barley, gross beef, net beef, corn, salt, bacon, beans, lard, coffee, tea, sugar, soap, baking powder, and other groceries were opened by Acting Commissioner Larrabee. Commissioner Gates, of this board, was present and assisted. About 200 bids were opened.

Your committee looks forward with interest to the testing of the plan of the present Commissioner of Indian Affairs for deferring the opening of bids for corn meal, cracked wheat, hominy, ground feed, flour, oats, dried apples, peaches, prunes, and canned tomatoes until early autumn, with the expectation of thus securing products of the current season instead of "hold-over" supplies. The change seems to us to be a wise one, promising well for the service. The earlier date fixed this year for opening bids and awarding contracts in the matter of clothing, etc., in order to secure the forwarding of all blankets, clothing, etc., needed for winter use early in the autumn, that these supplies may not fail to reach the Indians before cold weather sets in, we heartily approve. Attention has been called in our past reports to lamentable cases where winter supplies were held up on the road until spring, and the Indians suffered greatly as a result of this needless delay.

On Wednesday, April 18, and the succeeding days, the Commissioner of Indian Affairs examined samples and made awards of contracts for clothing and for hats and caps at the United States Indian warehouse in New York City. Commissioner Gates, of this board, assisted in the examination of samples and in the awarding of contracts. On Wednesday, the 25th of April, examination of samples and awards of contracts in dry goods, notions, etc., were made at the

warehouse in New York by the Commissioner of Indian Affairs. Commissioner Darwin R. James, chairman of this board and of this purchasing committee, was in attendance and consulted with the Commissioner of Indian Affairs with reference to these awards.

On Monday, May 14, Commissioner Leupp, assisted by Commissioner Gates of this board, began the examination of samples and the award of contracts at the St. Louis warehouse. Commissioner Gates was in attendance from the morning of May 14 until the afternoon of Thursday, April 17, when the awarding of contracts at St. Louis was substantially completed. On the 18th and 19th of May Commissioner Gates was in attendance at the Indian warehouse in Chicago at what was substantially the completion of the awarding of contracts at that warehouse.

Your committee in reporting wish to express their gratification at the intelligent and persistent efforts made by the present Commissioner of Indian Affairs to meet the real needs of the Indian Service by the changes made in schedules and specifications, and by the care taken to bring to bear (upon the specifications and upon the examination of samples) the experience not only of experts upon the value of goods, but also of men and women in the Indian Service who are able to pass intelligently upon the fitness of the supplies to meet the needs and (wherever it is wise to defer to the taste and the preferences of the Indians) to meet the preferences and choices of the Indians as well.

BUSINESS DONE AT THE UNITED STATES WAREHOUSES.

Mr. Frank Sorensen, superintendent of the United States Indian warehouse at 265 and 267 South Canal street, Chicago, under date of January 14, 1907, writes to the secretary of the board of Indian commissioners as follows:

SIR: I inclose herewith lists showing total amount of goods handled by this warehouse during the calendar year 1906; also list of inspectors employed here during that time.

Very respectfully,

FRANK SORENSEN, *Superintendent.*

Shipments handled by Chicago warehouse from January 1 to June 30, 1906, inclusive, since last report.

From—	Number of packages.	Weight.	Amount.
Chicago, Ill.....	5,235	729,863	\$43,775.54
St. Paul, Minn.....	927	125,453	3,679.67
Kansas City, Mo.....	304	54,387	525.35
Omaha, Nebr.....	6	258	25.00
St. Louis, Mo.....	5	789	25.73
Waynesboro, Pa.....	4	3,951	395.00
Albuquerque, N. Mex.....	14	1,972	31.40
Quincy, Ill.....	1	14	1.10
Forwarded by mail.....	39	106	150.89
Total.....	6,585	916,293	48,609.68

FROM JULY 1 TO DECEMBER 31, 1906, INCLUSIVE.

Chicago, Ill.....	52,262	7,705,176	\$358,787.10
St. Paul, Minn.....	2,344	201,911	4,792.97
San Francisco, Cal.....	706	352,499	17,331.65
Duluth, Minn.....	357	56,567	447.33
St. Louis, Mo.....	152	37,709	1,403.96
Kansas City, Mo.....	63	6,696	297.56
Omaha, Nebr.....	3	1,331	54.72
Burlington, Iowa.....	5	795	36.50
Minneapolis, Minn.....	8	785	45.80
Peoria, Ill.....	64	8,284	268.51
Forwarded by mail.....	355	674	488.92
Total.....	56,319	8,372,427	383,955.02
Total January 1 to June 30.....	6,585	916,293	48,609.68
Total July 1 to December 31.....	56,319	8,372,427	383,955.02
Grand total.....	62,854	9,288,720	432,564.70

TOTAL FROM JANUARY 1 TO DECEMBER 31, 1906.

Number of packages.....	62,854
Weight.....	9,288,720
Amount.....	\$432,564.70

Inspectors employed at the Chicago warehouse during calendar year 1906.

Name of inspector.	Articles inspected.	Days on duty.	Year of service.
Henry W. Dudley	Coffee, beans, sugar, rice, groceries, etc.....	35	Eighth.
Thomas Robertson	Tea.....	4	Do.
Prof. J. H. Long	Baking powder, soap, cream of tartar, drugs, etc.	68	Do.
Wilhelm Bodeman	Medical supplies	22	Ninth.
R. H. Whittemore	Crockery, lamps, etc	21	Fourth.
Geo. E. Watson	Paints, oils, etc	45	Eighth.
James R. Jensen, from Indian Office at Washington, D. C.	Classes 10, 12, 13, 15, 16, and 17.....	(a)	Second.
M. I. Zeigler, from Carlisle School, Pa.	Class 11 and leather belting.....	(b)	Do.
H. S. Shepherd	Bacon, mess pork, and lard	17	Seventh.
John J. Ryan	Dry goods and notions	37	First.
David Hewey, from Leech Lake Agency.	Boots and shoes	(c)	Second.
C. H. Reeves	Zinc, tin, etc.....	1	First.
Ephraim Hewitt	Flour.....	100	Fourth.

- * From July 2 to November 15, inclusive.
- From May 14 to 18, from October 19 to November 1, and from December 6 to 13.
- From August 20 to November 22, inclusive (time divided between Chicago and St. Louis).

Supt. William H. Blake, of the United States Indian warehouse at 602 South Seventh street, St. Louis, Mo., writes under date of January 14, 1907, as follows:
 "DEAR SIR: In reply to your letter of the 9th instant, relative to the record of work done at the St. Louis Indian warehouse during the calendar year 1906, I have the honor to submit the following statement:

STATEMENT OF ST. LOUIS WAREHOUSE.

Bids submitted in April.....	59
Contracts awarded in May.....	41
Open-market proposals accepted.....	174
Packages shipped by freight.....	14, 769
Packages shipped by mail.....	218
Weight of goods shipped by freight..... pounds.....	1, 554, 227
Weight of goods shipped by mail..... do.....	549

Name of inspector.	Class of goods.	Number of years.	Number of days.
Wm. Bodeman	Medical supplies	5	9
Wm. H. Hahn	Hardware	3	46
Lendrum Johnston.....	Dry goods	2	13
David Hewey.....	Shoes.....	2	(a)

* Paid by month ; made no report of the number of days.

" Very respectfully,

" WILLIAM H. BLAKE,
 " Superintendent."

STATEMENT OF OMAHA WAREHOUSE.

R. C. Jordan, superintendent of the United States Indian warehouse at Omaha, Nebr., under date of January 21, 1907, submits the following report covering the calendar year 1906:

Number of packages shipped.....	22, 215
Supplies shipped..... pounds.....	2, 342, 838

Inspectors.	Articles inspected.	Year of service.
Prof. John H. Long.....	Soap, drugs	Eighth.
R. C. Jordan.....	Bacon, sugar, rice, oatmeal, hardware, mattresses, hard bread, lard, corn meal, hominy.	Sixth.
William O. Thomas	Medical supplies	Fourth.

Prof. John H. Long, seven days' work.
 Services of R. C. Jordan and W. O. Thomas as inspectors were performed without additional cost to the Government.

Very respectfully,

R. C. JORDAN, Superintendent.

Superintendent E. F. Merwin, in charge of the Indian warehouse Nos. 119 and 121 Wooster street, New York City, under date of January 18, 1907, writes as follows:

STATEMENT OF NEW YORK WAREHOUSE.

Sir: During the calendar year 1906 there was moved through this warehouse to destination 19,810 packages, weighing 2,558,958 pounds, under 42 contracts, selected and awarded from 68 bids, which this year were opened in Washington.

Mr. Griffin, in this, his ninth year as inspector of clothing, occupied thirty-eight days.

Mr. E. Jellene, in this, his second year as inspector of dry goods and notions, occupied forty-three days.

Mr. Arthur Sutorius, in this, his first year as inspector of hats and caps, occupied eighteen days.

Mr. E. C. Kirkland, in this, his first year as inspector of coffee, occupied three days.

Mr. Benj. H. McClain, in this, his first year as inspector of hardware, occupied one day.

Sugar, sirup, wagon covers, and other miscellaneous articles were inspected by the superintendent.

You will observe a very large increase of business in this warehouse, which was accomplished with a large percentage of decrease in expense, as, for instance, in 1905 we handled 6,037 packages, against 19,810 in 1906, and in 1905 724,938 pounds, against 2,558,958 pounds in 1906, an increase of several hundred per cent in business at no appreciable increase in expense. As our cartage contract was made for 25 cents per ton less for 1906-7, you will see that it is a very large item, and the clerical force in the warehouse was less than 1905.

I might add, though not asked for, that the quality of goods which have been furnished to the Indians in 1906 was superior to that of 1905, and, as I believe, very much superior to that furnished in previous years, particularly in dry goods, and though at a slight advance in cost will prove a real economy in the added service of the goods.

Very respectfully, yours,

E. F. MERWIN,
Superintendent.

All of which is respectfully submitted to the board, and through them to the Secretary of the Interior, as the report of your purchasing committee.

MERRILL E. GATES,
Pro tempore Chairman of Purchasing Committee.

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 Fourth avenue, New York City.
 Baptist (Southern): Rev. B. D. Gray, D. D., 724 Austell Building, Atlanta, Ga.
 Catholic (Roman) Bureau of Indian Missions: Rev. William H. Ketcham,
 1326 New York avenue, Washington, D. C.
 (Congregational) American Missionary Association: Rev. A. F. Beard, D. D.,
 287 Fourth avenue, New York City.
 Episcopal Church Mission: Rev. A. S. Lloyd, D. D., 281 Fourth avenue, New
 York City.
 Friends' Yearly Meeting: Joseph J. Janney, Eutaw and Madison streets,
 Baltimore, Md.
 (Friends' Orthodox) Associated Executive Committee of Friends on Indian
 Affairs: E. M. Wistar, 704 Provident Building, Philadelphia, Pa.
 Methodist Missionary Society: Rev. H. K. Carroll, D. D., 150 Fifth avenue,
 New York City.
 Methodist Episcopal Church (Southern): Rev. W. R. Lembuth, 810 Broad-
 way, Nashville, Tenn.
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 Schweinitz, 20 Church street, Bethlehem, Pa.
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 New York City.
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 Morris, Atlanta, Ga.

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